

FLEEING SOUTH  
TURKS GIVE UP  
BITLIS ALSO

Russians Have Occupied the Entire Lake Van Region, According to a Despatch from Petrograd and Published in Rome To-day

OTHER RUSSIAN ARMY  
IS NEAR TREBIZOND

Great Britain Has Called Out Her Youngest Recruits, Those Who Reached the Age of 18 Years Last August—They Are to Report Before March 31

London, Feb. 21.—The Russians have occupied the entire Lake Van district. The Turks are retiring southward and are even evacuating Bitlis, according to a Petrograd dispatch received in Rome and given out here by the Wireless press. On the other wing, according to the dispatch, the Russian advance guard has arrived within a short distance of Trebizond on the Black sea coast.

The rapid advance of Russian forces in Turkish Armenia, following the fall of Erzerum, is complicating the task of the Turks in efforts to re-form their scattered forces. From Tiflis, the Russian headquarters in the Caucasus, comes the report to-day that two Turkish army corps, on the way to reinforce the garrison at Erzerum, turned back when they learned that the fortress had fallen.

Assuming the accuracy of this report, the Turks in eastern Armenia lost the prospect of important help in extricating themselves from what appears to be a perilous position.

Unofficial accounts of the Russian movements record the advance both to the south and to the north, in the former direction toward Diarbekr and the Bagdad railway 50 miles beyond, and in the latter in an effort to cut off the retreat of the Turkish forces operating along the Black sea coast.

The Russian Duma, prorogued Sept. 16, has been summoned to meet again to-morrow.

Berlin reports a raid by German naval aeroplanes which dropped a number of bombs on the British aviation camp at Farnes, near the North sea. Minor success by the British on the German East African border was announced in London.

BRITISH ATTACK  
BY HAND GRENADE  
WAS REPULSED

Germans Tell of Their Success in Defending a New Position on the Yser Canal North of Ypres—British Also Forced to Retreat from Edge of Mine Crater.

Berlin, Feb. 21.—The repulse of a British hand grenade attack against a new German position on the Yser canal north of Ypres was announced to-day by the German war office. The forced withdrawal of the British from the edge of a mine crater to which they recently advanced was also reported as well as the repulse of an allied attack on the German lines along the Lens-Arras road.

BRITISH RECRUITS  
OF FIRST CLASS  
ARE CALLED OUT

Those Who Became 18 Years of Age on Aug. 15 Last, Must Report Before March 31, According to an Official Proclamation.

London, Feb. 21.—A royal proclamation has been posted, calling to the colors recruits of class 1 under the military service act. They are to report before March 31.

Class 1 comprises the youngest recruits available. They are bachelors who had attained the age of 18 Aug. 15 last, and it is believed the majority have not attained 19 years of age and thus become eligible for military service. The present summons completes the calling up of single men.

KEEN INTEREST IN  
ASQUITH'S SPEECH

British Premier to Ask for Two New Votes of Credit—Philip Snowden to Bring Up Peace Terms

Question.  
London, Feb. 21.—Premier Asquith's speech, to be delivered to-day in the House of Commons on the financial situation, was awaited with keen interest. Asquith will move to-day two new votes of credit, one for £120,000,000 to finance the war until March 31, the end of the current financial year, and the other for £300,000,000 to start the new financial year in adequate fashion.  
On Wednesday, Philip Snowden, Social member for Blackburn, will raise the question of peace terms.

FOUR MACHINES  
IN TWO RAIDS  
ON ENGLAND

British Official Report Announces That Three People Were Killed and One Was Injured in Sunday's Action.

London, Feb. 21.—Four German sea-planes yesterday made a raid over the east and southeast coasts of England, according to an official announcement made last evening. The total casualties are given as two men and one boy killed and one marine wounded. Considerable material damage was done.

The official announcement says: "Four German sea-planes made a raid over east and southeast coasts at noon to-day.

"The first raiders, two biplanes, appeared over Lowestoft at 10:55 a. m., and circled over the south side of the town for five minutes and dropped bombs. In about five minutes they rose to a great height and seemingly vanished. At 11:30 a. m. the two sea-planes were again over the town and then vanished eastward again.

"Altogether 17 small high explosive bombs were dropped. The were no casualties. Considerable damage was caused to the outbuildings of a restaurant and to two dwelling houses. Two naval sea-planes went up at 11:06 a. m., and pursued the raiders, but without result.

"Meanwhile two other German sea-planes were making for the Kentish coast. The first passed over the Kentish Knock light vessel, dropping bombs in that vicinity at 11:20 a. m. The last raider made straight for Walmer.

"Reaching that town at 11:27 a. m., flying at less than 2,500 feet it dropped six bombs and turned sharply to the east.

"Two of the bombs that fell destroyed roofs and broke windows in the neighborhood. One of them fell close to a church, blowing out the windows as the congregation was singing 'Te Deum.' A third bomb fell on a roadway running along the beach, killing one civilian and injuring one marine.

"The total casualties were two men and one boy killed and one marine wounded.

"Two of our aeroplanes which went up from Dover pursued the raiders, but apparently could not overtake him."

GERMANY CONTENTS  
TREATY PREVENTS  
APPAM ACTION

Embassy at Washington Makes Representations That Present Admiralty Proceedings Cannot Be Brought Under Existing Agreement.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—Representations were made to the state department to-day by the German embassy, contending that the provisions of the Prussian-American treaty bar such admiralty proceedings as have been brought against the captured British liner Appam, now a German prize in Hampton Roads, with the objection of returning the ship to its British owners.

## INJURED LAST SUMMER.

Mrs. Frances E. Brooks Died at Manchester, N. H.

Manchester, N. H., Feb. 21.—As the result of injuries received in a carriage accident last August at Craftsbury, Vt., Mrs. Frances E. Brooks died yesterday at her home, 508 Manchester street, at the age of 79 years. Suffering acute pain since her accident, she displayed a cheerful disposition even to the very end. She was a native of Craftsbury. She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Lucena Busnell of Dover, Mass., and Mrs. Susan M. Farnum of Medford, Mass.; two daughters, Miss M. Adelaide Brooks of Dummerston, Vt., and Mrs. Kimball W. Bates, at whose home she died, and by a granddaughter, Miss Lois H. Bates.

## WANTS INFORMATION.

Senator Stone to Force President Wilson to Give It.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—The Senate to-day adopted a resolution by Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee, asking the president to submit the correspondence between the United States and Korea when Japan occupied the hermit kingdom during the Russo-Japanese war. The administration leaders, it was said, want to use the information in a reply to Elihu Root's attack on President Wilson because no protest was made against the occupation of Belgium.

## FRANCIS TO BE EMBASSADOR.

Ex-Secretary of Interior Invited to Succeed George T. Marrye.

St. Louis, Feb. 21.—David R. Francis will notify President Wilson early this week whether he will accept the post of ambassador to Russia. Mr. Francis would succeed George T. Marrye, whose resignation has been accepted.

## LANSING ASKS PROMPT ACTION.

Wishes British Foreign Office to Reply Soon on Mail Seizure.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—Secretary Lansing to-day asked the London foreign office for prompt replies to the American notes protesting against seizures of mails and against the application of the trading with the enemy act against American firms and interests.

## FLOATED OFF REEF.

The British Steamship Comrie Castle is Saved.

London, Feb. 21.—The British steamship Comrie Castle, reported ashore last week on a reef off Mombasa, British East Africa, has been floated.

The Slum Worker—You look like a very worthy person.  
The Flattered One—Oh, I'm all right, ma'am. I manage to get along first rate. I ain't got nobody to support. I'm a single woman.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

LOCAL OPTION  
DENOUNCED

Speakers Declared Nation-Wide Prohibition the Only Real Remedy

URGED VERMONT  
TO JOIN PROCESSION

Anti-Saloon League Sent Two Spellbinders in Barre

Under the auspices of the Anti-Saloon League of America, two able lecturers supporting the cause of national prohibition spoke to a good-sized audience in the opera house yesterday afternoon. Both are men of national importance and men who are thoroughly conversant with the topic which they discussed. Dr. M. Swadener of Indianapolis has occupied a position on a board of specialists called together by the United States government to discuss the conservation of national resources, and Hon. M. R. Patterson was for two years governor of Tennessee.

The meeting was called for 3 o'clock and was opened with a prayer by Dr. E. F. Newell, pastor of the Hedding church. Rev. J. W. Barnett of the Congregational church had charge of the meeting and introduced as the first speaker Dr. Swadener, saying that the mere fact that both speakers were from other and widely separated states proved conclusively that the country is watching Vermont and is interested in the way in which she is going to vote on the state prohibition law.

Dr. Swadener opened his address with the quotation "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," saying that as a nation we are now on the rising tide for prohibition and that every dollar we spend now and every move we make to free the country from the liquor traffic is worth more by many times than the same amount of money or the same effort would have been 10 years ago. The liquor question is not the same old question of a few years ago. The men who are supporting the traffic realize that they are facing defeat. In fact, they probably appreciate it better than most of the people who have it in their power to hasten this downfall. It is surprising to think that after 30 years of struggle for this very thing we at last have it in our own hands to destroy this evil and do not realize it.

The psychological hour is here and if the prohibition forces will stick together for five years more the object of their fight can be gained. The world is waking up to-day to the value of good citizens. A few years ago in our own country congresses were called together to discuss means for the preservation of forests and water supply, later they discussed the feeding of hog and cattle for the best results, and now they have gone a step farther and are discussing the citizens themselves and ways to make them more efficient economically and better men from a mental and moral standpoint. We are coming to realize that "no country is greater than the people in it. We are finding out that the citizen is the first thing of importance in the country to-day and that is the thing that is doing away with the liquor traffic."

The biggest question in America to-day as well as in the world is the question of temperance. Russia has shown by its action in forbidding the use of liquor in her army that she regards a total abstainer as the only first class soldier. If it takes a total abstainer to be a first class soldier it is not reasonable to say that a man must also abstain in order to reach the highest stage of efficiency in any occupation? Some of the greatest firms in the country to-day are beginning to realize the state of affairs and are getting rid of all of their employees whom they find are drinking or spending their time in saloons.

The opponents of prohibition may say that it interferes with personal liberty to have a state or national prohibition law. How about our personal liberty now? Can you burn your own house or beat your own wife without finding yourself in jail the next morning for it? No! We must live for society and not for selfish individualism. Local option men will say that we need the revenue from the liquor traffic. "We have never taken a dollar for revenue from the liquor traffic that did not cost us two dollars in net results."

If any man is in doubt how to vote in order to put down the sale of liquor let him "find out the side on which the liquor people stand and then get on the other side." The constitutionality of the state prohibition law has been questioned but supreme court verdicts uphold it. The constitution says that when a sufficient number of petitioners present an amendment to the constitution and when it shall have been voted on favorably by two-thirds of the House and Senate it shall be submitted to the states for ratification. We shall have the two-thirds vote in Congress soon and then it only remains to secure the consent of 36 of the states to carry it. Nineteen of the states are prohibition now. Let Vermont be the 20th.

"The most colossal fraud of the past 100 years in America is the liquor traffic." We have put stop to the manufacture and sale of impure foods and imposed rigorous restrictions on the care of milk. Why not stop the sale of liquor? The thing most needed in the Prohibitionist cause is backbone. We cannot turn these things over to the Lord and let Him run them. Liquor attacks everything that the church holds sacred and everything that the state holds fundamental. If we can drive liquor out and (Continued on eighth page).

NORTHWEST WIND DRIVES  
FORMIDABLE OFFENSIVE

Boston, Feb. 21.—The coldest weather of the winter prevailed throughout the greater part of New England to-day, with Greenville, Me., at 20 below zero, reporting the lowest official temperature. The highest was six above at Nantucket.

Other minimum records in New England were Northfield and Burlington, Vt., 14 below; Eastport, Me., 12 below; Portland, four below; Boston, zero; Block Island, R. I., five above.

The cold seemed more intense than the records indicated because of a stiff northwest wind, which swept down from Ontario, where reports showed it to be 30 below at Stonecliffe.

CRONES' DESIRE  
FOR NOTORIETY  
MAY TRAP HIM

Just as Ignatius T. T. Lincoln's Desire Caused His Capture—Crones Is Becoming Careless in Relation to Police.

New York, Feb. 21.—The police to-day expressed confidence that the passion for notoriety shown by Jean Crones, the Chicago anarchist, who attempted to poison Archbishop Mundelein and 300 other guests at a banquet 10 days ago, would result in his capture in the same manner as a similar desire for publicity trapped Ignatius T. T. Lincoln, the Hungarian spy.

Crones' latest exploit was to call up a local newspaper twice and announce that he intended to remain in New York until Thursday. His announcement was coupled with a threat against his brother, Paul, on account of an interview which Paul gave the newspapers.

PENFIELD PROMISED  
A PROMPT REPLY

Austria Notified American Ambassador That Report of Attack on Petrolite Would Be Given Soon.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 21.—Ambassador Penfield at Vienna to-day cabled he had presented the American note asking an investigation and explanation of the attack on the America tank steamer Petrolite near Alexandria several weeks ago, and had been promised a prompt reply. It was said at the state department that the reply will probably give basis for further negotiations.

## THREE FIRES IN ONE BLOCK.

Bellows Falls Building and Contents Damaged \$2,500.

Bellows Falls, Feb. 21.—The fire department was called three times between 2:20 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning to the building on Westminster street owned by Dennis Scurlitis.

The first alarm was for a small blaze in a store occupied by Fred C. Cookson, a tailor, and H. P. Sweet, agent for a sewing machine. Ten minutes after the department had left the place a still alarm recalled the apparatus to the building. Upon their return the firemen found a stiff blaze in progress. The fire completely gutted the tailor shop. The stock and fixtures in the millinery store of Miss Nona R. Hennessey were practically destroyed by fire and water. The Olympic pool parlor was gutted and two pool tables destroyed. Goodell & Goodell, who conducted a fancywork store and undertaking rooms, had a small smoke damage.

The third alarm was a still one and was for a fire in a partition on the second floor, which is occupied as lodging rooms by Greeks. Firemen claim this fire was caused by an overheated stove. The lodgers deny this. The building is one of the oldest in the business section of the village. The damage from the three fires amounted to about \$1,500.

## SAW TRAIN TOO LATE.

John Brown of Brighton, Mass., Killed at Milton, N. H.

Milton, N. H., Feb. 21.—While crossing the Boston and Maine railroad tracks, on his way to dinner from his work at ice harvesting at Milton Three ponds yesterday, John Brown of Brighton, Mass., an employee of the Potter Ice company of Boston, was struck by an engine running as an extra from Sanbornville to Portsmouth repair shop, about 50 feet south of the crossing near the Potter Ice house, one mile above Milton village, and instantly killed.

On account of a curve, Mr. Brown did not notice the approaching engine, until too late, and the engineer did not have time to stop it. A blow in the side of the head caused instant death, and the victim was thrown 30 feet. The man's head and side were badly crushed.

Doctors Buckley and Hart of Milton were hastily summoned, but their services were not needed. The remains were viewed by Medical Referee Walter J. Roberts of Rochester, who attributed accident as the cause of death, and turned the body over to an undertaker. Mr. Brown had been employed in the ice business for 41 years, the greater part of the time for Potter Brothers. He leaves a wife and two sons and was 63 years of age.

## WRECK AT BETHEL.

Because One Freight Train Was Not Protected By Flagman.

Bethel, Feb. 21.—Extra freight trains drawn by engines 414 and 777 on the Central Vermont railroad collided here this morning, the collision being due to the failure of the crew of 414 to protect their train by a flagman. Engine 777 ploughed into the rear end of the other, setting fire to the caboose of the latter and causing the destruction of the caboose as well as the next car ahead. The latter car was loaded with coffee consigned to western points. No passenger trains were delayed.

FIGURING IS  
CRITICISED

But the Montpelier & Barre Light & Power Co. May Issue \$300,000 Bonds

WATER RIGHTS VALUE  
BONE OF CONTENTION

Public Service Commission Finds Fault with Company's Method

Authority to issue \$300,000 bonds has been granted by the Vermont public service commission to the Montpelier & Barre Light & Power company, with the express purpose of acquiring the Waterbury Light & Power company, a hearing on the petition having been held at Montpelier one week ago to-day. Of this amount \$195,000 is to be spent for the stock of the Waterbury concern and \$105,000 to be exchanged for the \$105,000 first mortgage five per cent. bonds of the same company. Another hearing will be held to authorize the sale of the Waterbury concern to the other.

The Montpelier & Barre company proposes to operate the Waterbury plant as a part of its own plant and will shortly make application for the consolidation. The commission found at the hearing that on Oct. 1, 1914, the Montpelier & Barre Light & Power company "made a mortgage of all its properties, rights, privileges and franchises then owned and thereafter acquired to the American Trust company of Boston, Mass., to secure the future issue of first refunding mortgage five per cent. 30-year convertible gold bonds to an amount not exceeding \$2,500,000"; also that under the provisions of the mortgage \$250,000 par value of these bonds had been issued, leaving \$2,250,000 unissued. The proposed issue of \$300,000 would leave \$1,950,000 unissued bonds of the Montpelier & Barre company.

In giving authorization for the issue of \$300,000 bonds, the public service commission took occasion to criticize the company's method of determining the value of the water rights of the Waterbury Light & Power company, as based on the annual saving of water-power production of the company's two plants over the best method of obtaining that power. The commission figured the saving would, at five per cent. interest, amount to a capitalization of \$105,000.

In this connection, the commission expressed itself as follows: "The state introduced no evidence tending to dispute the accuracy of the computations above set forth, nor did it introduce evidence which in any way controverted or criticized the method used in arriving at this valuation of \$105,000. The commission, however, entirely disapproves of this method of determining the value of these water rights, because in our opinion it creates a value which may be largely in excess of the actual value of the rights and because this method, if applied to rates, would entirely deprive the consumer of any of the benefit to which he is entitled by reason of having these natural resources at hand. In other words, this method puts a cost and franchise generated cost on an ever basis as to rates with a consumer using current from a hydro-electric plant, without regard to cost of production by the latter method. By this we do not mean that the producer should be deprived of all benefit accruing by reason of low cost of production of electricity by water power, but we do mean that this benefit should inure to both the producer and the consumer in a question involving the fixing of rates."

The commission goes on to say that "no evidence was introduced by the petitioner or the state from which we are able to determine precisely what would be a fair valuation of these water rights but from what we are able to determine from the case we must conclude that \$300,000 is not an excessive valuation on the properties, rights and franchises involved, and as this is the capitalization limit asked for by the petition, we are of the opinion that the petition must be granted."

## To Remove Wire Danger.

An order has been made by the commission for the Burlington Traction Co. to separate the line of poles of its high-tension line from Burlington to Ferrisburg to a minimum distance of 30 feet from the line of poles of the Western Union Telegraph company, parallel thereto on the west side of the railroad track, or, as an alternative, cease from transmitting high-tension current over its line sections after a certain date until such separation is made.

## GRIEF HASTENED DEATH

St. Johnsbury Woman's Daughter Disappeared Three Weeks Ago.

St. Johnsbury, Feb. 21.—Mrs. Reuben Morrison, aged 49, died at her home here yesterday after a year's illness. Although Mrs. Morrison had been in poor health for a long time, the disappearance of her 16-year-old daughter, Geraldine, about six weeks ago had preyed on her mind and this undoubtedly caused her complete breakdown. Besides her husband, Mrs. Morrison leaves four daughters, Catherine, Geraldine, Maud and Lois, and one son, Samuel Morrison.

Miss Geraldine Morrison, a student in the public schools here, disappeared from her home six weeks ago and all efforts to trace her have been in vain. It is known that she went to Boston, as detectives there found a suitcase belonging to her in a store. But all trace of her ended there. According to her family, there was no known reason for her leaving home and they are hopeful that she may in some manner learn of her mother's death and return to St. Johnsbury, where a welcome awaits her.

Mrs. Morrison's funeral will be held at her late home here Tuesday afternoon.

BURST WATERPIPE  
CAUSED DOWNPOUR

Tenants of Blanchard Block Damaged by Water Last Night; B. W. Hooker & Co. Being the Heaviest Losers.

Damage that may approach \$2,500 and possibly a larger sum was caused in the Blanchard block over night by the bursting of a water pipe in the attic. The heaviest losers are B. W. Hooker & Co., Granite ledge, No. 35, F. & A. M. St. Aldemar commandery, Vincitia lodge, Knights of Pythias, and Harmon Review of the Maccabees. Just how long the water had been running when it reached the break this morning cannot be told, but it is surmised that water began its downward course from the attic last evening. A small-sized pond adjacent to Enterprise alley in the rear of the block was frozen to a depth of six inches and there was ice on the first floor of the furniture store.

On the floor leased by the furniture dealers many hundred dollars' worth of fine furniture was practically ruined. On the fourth floor water seeped through the ceiling into the Masonic lodge room, damaged furniture and carpets, and caused the plaster to leave the walls. In the room adjacent, lockers used by the Knights of St. Aldemar for their uniforms were visited by the water and the contents damaged. Working its way downward, the water dripped through the ceilings of the third story, wrought havoc with fixtures owned by the Maccabees and Pythians and visited the apartments leased by the Vincitia club, although the loss in the Vincitia club was small.

First and second-story repositories for furniture in rooms connected with Hooker & Co.'s establishment were thoroughly drenched. Wall paper in unnumbered rolls was rendered useless, elaborately upholstered chairs were soaked and other furniture brought to a high state of polished were damaged beyond repair it is thought.

Three times within recent years the block has been visited by water. Once it was claimed that an inundation was due to defective sewage conveyances, but on one other occasion the cause of a flood was traced to the attic. It was thought that the water pipes in the attic, which center about a storage reservoir under the roof, were well protected, but through some channel that has not been disclosed, the cold crept in last night and caused a freeze-up. A. C. Blanchard of Montpelier one of the principals in the Blanchard Block Co. was called to the city early to-day. After examining the losses he is said to have intimated that a careful investigation would be made.

Pythians, Masons and the Vincitia club were on the point of renewing leases with the company for the use of their several suites on the third and fourth floors.

## OPPOSE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Montpelier Officials Will Not Bar Delinquent Taxpayers on State Issues.

Sixty-six names were added to the Montpelier checklists Saturday evening at a meeting of the board of civil authority held in the city council chamber at the Montpelier city hall, the board putting in a busy session which extended over two hours. Notwithstanding the decision handed down by the attorney general, Herbert G. Barber, the board, advised by two lawyers, Harry C. Shurtliff and State Librarian George Wing, voted to have two distinct checklists to be used March 7 on town meeting day, one to include the names of delinquent taxpayers and persons who have removed to the city from other towns and cities within the state since the assessment was made. The board determined to take that action after Messrs. Wing and Shurtliff had pointed out that delinquents and those who have moved in have a constitutional right, that of a freeman, to vote upon the statewide questions, the Perry prohibition bill and the primary bill.

Only two members of the board were opposed to the action taken and they failed to vote when the question was put by Mayor Boutwell, who presided. Lawyers in Montpelier seem practically united in the belief that Attorney General Barber's interpretation of the law makes the statute as drafted unconstitutional.

Of the 66 who appeared before the board, nearly half were persons who have received their naturalization papers recently, although some have resided in Montpelier for 10 and even 20 years. The next meeting of the board will be held to-morrow evening, with a second session Saturday. Two other meetings will be held, the last to be Thursday evening, March 2.

## A CONTEST IN BARRE TOWN.

C. M. Scribner Files Papers For Overseer of the Poor.

Only one contest developed in the Barre Town citizens' caucus which was held in East Barre opera house Saturday evening, nominations being made by acclamation with one exception. T. W. Roark, the present overseer of the poor, defeated C. M. Scribner of South Barre by a vote of 35 to 35. Mr. Scribner has filed nomination papers and will go before the voters March 7. Rigorous weather conditions kept the attendance down. A. C. Dickey acted as chairman and W. H. Miles served as clerk.

The list of nominees is as follows: Moderator, A. C. Dickey; town clerk and treasurer, W. H. Miles; selectman for three years, F. L. Sargent; lister for three years, Thomas Healy, Jr.; road commissioner, Alfred L. Bellville; overseer of the poor, T. W. Roark; auditors, A. C. Dickey, F. L. Tucker and E. S. Holden; school director, F. R. Northrop.

## 21 BELOW AT ST. ALBANS.

And at 11 O'clock Thermometer Registered 18 Below.

St. Albans, Feb. 21.—It was 21 degrees below zero here this morning. At 11 o'clock a thermometer in the rear of the government building on Kingman street registered 18 below zero, the coldest record at that hour during the past four years.

DOUBLE WORRY  
SUICIDE CAUSE

Richard Ciardi Had Been Ill and Troubled over Business Affair

HE WAS MANAGER OF  
GRANITE STORE

He Took Suicide Poison Potion at a Friend's House

Richard Ciardi, one of the best known men in the Italian colony of Barre and for several years closely identified with mercantile interests on Granite street, died at the home of Charles Abbiati, 90 Circle street Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Circumstances surrounding the case point quite plainly to suicide by poisoning and an autopsy conducted in the Perry & Noonan undertaking establishment on Depot square by Dr. B. H. Stone of Burlington, state pathologist, and Dr. C. F. Whitney Sunday afternoon is expected to determine the exact nature of the poison which the man took to end his life.

An unsigned letter in Mr. Ciardi's handwriting, which was found on his person, ascribes the deed to impaired health and adverse business conditions. Several weeks ago Mr. Ciardi submitted to a surgical operation at his home, 7 Granite street. Very recently he had been able to be about the house and Saturday forenoon he told members of the family that he was going to the home of his long-time friend, Mr. Abbiati, for a visit. He reached the Abbiati home on upper Circle street around 10 o'clock and conferred with Mr. Abbiati regarding business matters. It was during the visit that he was taken ill.

During the forenoon and afternoon two physicians were summoned. To neither Dr. P. S. Duffy nor Dr. W. E. Lazell, who were called, did the man indicate the cause of his illness. He did not suffer acutely, but his unexpected death in the latter half of the afternoon led members of the Abbiati family to suspect that something of mysterious nature had occurred. Mrs. Ciardi was immediately notified and police headquarters was advised of the man's death. Grand Juror William Wishart and Chief Sinclair were summoned along with Health Officer Charles Oliver, who was called in the absence of Dr. J. W. Stewart, secretary of the local board of health, who is detained at home by illness. The latter, found in Mr. Ciardi's coat pocket, dissipated all doubt as to the manner of his demise.

More than a page of foolscap was used by the dead man in his valedictory message. Written with pen and ink, it gave in detail some of the reasons why he wished to end his life. Apparently it had been penned before he arrived at the Abbiati home, for it was written on the business stationery of the Granite City Granite store. Addressing his wife, he asked forgiveness for the pain taken by his children he commended the care of Mrs. Ciardi, beseeching his son to shun tobacco and intoxicants and to seek employment at once. A portion of the letter was concerned with the affairs of the Granite City store and he asked that F. G. Howland be consulted in discharging outstanding obligations so far as possible. Regarding a certain Mr. O'Hanley he spoke in praise of his friendliness and asked that his monetary loss be minimized as much as possible. Mr. Ciardi's farewell message also contained the statement, "I have been wronged more by the workmen than by the capitalists, but in spite of it all I still have faith in the workingman." Latterly he speaks of futile attempts to organize an adequate bookkeeping system for the concern, remarking that ill health came to hinder his third attempt to put the affairs of the store on a working basis.

Physicians who examined the body were unable to form a conclusive theory as to the real nature of the poison taken by the man. Neither his lips nor his tongue had been burned by acid. Grand Juror Wishart communicated with State's Attorney F. E. Gleason, who in turn consulted with Attorney General Herbert G. Barber of Brattleboro. The three officials agreed that an autopsy should be held and at 7 o'clock the family was given permission to remove the remains to the Perry & Noonan undertaking establishment, there to await the arrival of Dr. Stone and his assistant.

A development in the case came late this forenoon when Bruno Ciardi, son of the deceased, who is employed in the Granite City store, recalling that his father, before his departure Saturday morning, mentioned a prospective trip to the company's lardhouse on Hatbolder street, went to the little building. There he found what is believed to be tangible evidence that his father partook of poison while in the lardhouse and before going to the Abbiati home. On a table in the building was a glass tumbler, which the young man recognized as the property of Miss Mary McCarthy, a bookkeeper at the store. Traces of a white powder were found in abundance on the inside of the glass and apparently an attempt had been made to eliminate all signs of the poison, for bits of scorched paper around the glass on the table indicated that someone had tried to burn the powder.

Young Ciardi immediately reported his discovery to the police and Grand Juror Wishart. The latter took charge of the glass and contents and will probably turn them over to the state laboratory for analysis. The authorities are inclined to the belief that Ciardi must have mixed a solution of water and poisonous powder, although the nature of the powder is difficult to determine without an analysis.

The young man's discovery bears out (Continued on eighth page).